pennsylvania musician

magazine

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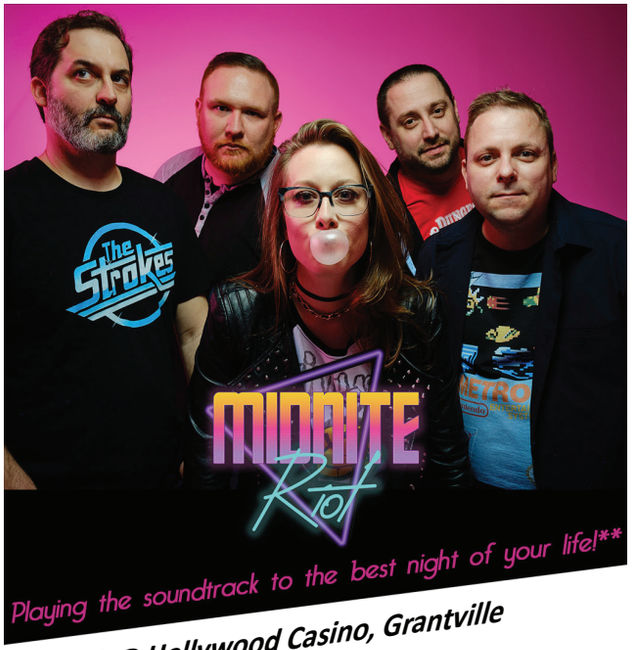

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Rachel Rocks.....Out & About

Eric Hoffman.....National

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Editor Ramblings By Josh Noll

Hello once again readers and welcome to another month of Pa Musician Magazine. There is a lot going on around the office as we push right into 2023 and it seems people are really gearing up for the new year. There has been some big show announcements hitting the streets on both the local and national level.

A big one to mention would be Pantera making three stops in PA one on the 7/28 in Burgettstown, 8/5 in Hershey followed by 8/6 in Scranton with special guest Lamb of God. Heavy metal fans rejoice! Get your tickets now! If you need your heavy metal fix and can't wait till summer, then 717 Entertainment has you covered. Soulfly is coming to Lovedrafts Brewing Co. on February 25th with Bodybox, Skin Flint, Suicide Puppets, Nailbite and Evil Like You! An action packed show you don't want to miss.

Don't forget February also brings out Gettysburg Rocks. The whole area will be buzzing with the sounds of music the weekend of the 10th and 11th. Racehorse has two stacked nights of music. On the 10th it's the Spyders of HBG, Liquid Lucky, NES, Headstruck and Suicide Puppets. The next night starts out with Headshot then blasts away with Burden of Guilt, Powder Keg Culture, Coal, Coffee With Lions and Age Against the Machine. Wow what a weekend of music and that's just the Racehorse there will be bands rocking out all around Gettysburg area so go support.

Another February tradition for the local area was always the Millennium Music Conference. To fill that void a new conference has been formed. The Play Music Conference is taking place in Philadelphia PA on February 16th-17th-18th at The University of Arts. If you're missing all your MMC family or want to further your career in the music industry this is the conference to attend. They will have panels from major names in the local and national music scene along with live music showcases. If you want to join in on the fun head over to playmusicconference.com or check them out on facebook.

The Doyle Hotel is back in action with acoustic acts and full bands throughout the month. We stopped down a couple weeks ago to catch a performance by Zach King in the upstairs ballroom. Zach had the room full and we were lucky to grab the last table available. As usual Zach performed his classic Gritty Americana style of hard rocking country, mixed in with tales of how the songs came about or into his life. Every time I see Zach take to the mic it becomes more of a down home family style event. it feels like half the crowd could hop up any minute and join along in the performance. In fact most of the times that's what happens. This night we had Adam Clouser take the stage for a solo set. Adam is an up an coming musician to watch out for. I have seen him a couple times and every time he takes to the mic you can literally hear the people around you start talking and questioning what they are witnessing. This boy can sing and his original song "Don't Shut The Door" has received over 300,000 views on Tik Tok. Its a great song and just the beginning for Adam. If you have never checked him out you can find him on facebook and tik tok @adamclousermusic.

The PA Musician Family would like to congratulate Joey Welz on 65 plus years of Songwriting and performing live. Joey started his music career around the birth of Rock and Roll and recorded his first instrumental hit "Jitterbug Rock" in 1955. By 1959 Joey had his first national hit record "Bopping The Stroll" on Cash Box Magazine. Over the years Joey has recorded over 2,000 songs on over 100 albums. His career spans lifetimes in the music community and he shows no sign of slowing down now, as Joey is always "Rocking around the Clock". As president of Canadian American Records Joey continues to search out new artists and supports the music community along with releasing his own records. From classic rock to country and even some rap in between, Joey has explored it all along his musical career. Watching Joey heat up the keys of a grand piano is a sight to be seen and one that I will never forget. Keep it up Joey we look forward to many more hits.

Well that's it for this month. Tune in next month to see what is happening in the state of PA as we roll through winter and start heading into Spring. Don't wait to take your career by the horns. Call us today or send us an email and find out how we can help your career span generations in the PA Musician Magazine. Call 717-636-4203 email joshnoll@pamusician.net

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Thurs. 2/2: Doyle Hotel, Duncannon, PA - 6-9pm
Fri. 2/3: Flinchy's, Camp Hill, PA - 8-11pm
Sat. 2/4: Bridgewater, York, PA - 7-9pm
Fri. 2/10: Wolf Brewing Co, Mech., PA - 6:30-9:30pm
Sun. 2/12: Spring Gate Estate, Harrisburg, PA - 2-4pm
Wed. 2/15: Flinchy's, Camp Hill, PA - 7-10pm
Thur. 2/16: Tony Locos, Woodbine, MD - 6-9pm
Fri. 2/17: Maggie's, Westminster, MD - 8-11pm
Sat. 2/18: Maryland Mallet, Westminster, MD - 7-10pm
Tues. 2/21: Falls Hotel, York Haven, PA - 6-9pm
Thurs. 2/23: Middletown Hunters & Anglers, PA 7-10pm
Fri. 2/24: Grandpa's Love Shack, Shermans Dale - 5-7pm
Sat. 2/25: Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel, PA - 6-9pm
Sun. 2/26: Vineyard & Brewery at Hershey - 2-4pm

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w/The Mostly Dead, The Galaxy Has Eye's, Hobo Houston
Fri, Mar. 24th @ 6:00pm
Scott Church's The Church, Lebanon PA
w/ August Winters, CoalState, Anchor End, Fight From the Kid
Sat, Mar. 25th @ 8:00pm
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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

February.. the month for lovers! I'm definitely a lover of live music! I'm truly blessed to have all the jobs I have so I can live, breathe, and support music, pretty much 24/7. Even when I do sleep, I feel like I even dream about music! HA! Let's get on to my adventures…

It all started off quick last month because my first stop was when I was out delivering magazines! My good friend, Neil McClain was playing at Flinchy's on a Wednesday, so after I got done delivering I stopped in for some music. I've known Neil for years, and have followed him playing from his kitchen, or wherever he could while raising his little girls, now that his girls are growing up, you see him hitting local stages more and more! He definitely belongs on the stage, and I'm glad he's getting out there and sharing his music with the masses!

The next night out was a long one! When I'm home I try and take full advantage of every second I have and see as much music as possible. It all started with a trip to the River House in Middletown for DMC Duo. It unfortunately wound up being D solo, because Marisa was super sick! (I'm glad to note she's fully recovered and back out there!) Darrell knew that the show must go on, and go on it did! Darrell has been playing music for so long, he's lucky to have quite the repertoire of songs to sing by himself when he has to. He was able to keep the crowd entertained all night long, but I'm sure he'll be very happy when Marisa is back by his side! Huge Congrats goes out to DMC Duo for being nominated for the Best Duo, and Marisa for being nominated as the Best Female Vocalist in the 2022 CPMAs!!

Next, I went and picked up Angie and zoomed down to Katz 22 at the York Casino. It was no surprise to see Katz 22 already had the dance floor full and everyone was having a great time! Katz 22 plays so many great covers that you don't hear everywhere else, but they are all songs you definitely remember and love! Congrats to Katz 22 for being nominated as the Best Cover Band in the CPMAs!

After catching a Katz 22 set, the night wasn't over yet, we zoomed over to Racehorse to catch the end of the Steel show. Their shows and my schedules very rarely align, so when I'm in town and they are playing, I do my best to get there! The Racehorse Tavern tries to accommodate all of their patrons, so after 8, when there is a band they don't allow smoking inside, but they do have a nice, closed in patio for the smokers to go, so they aren't left out in the cold. I can't imagine how hard it is for singers in a smoking establishment, so I feel like it's a really good compromise. I know I appreciate it. Steel was also kickin' a** and taking names when we got there! It's awesome to see Kyle getting more and more comfortable on the stage. Steel will be rockin' the Hanover Moose on Saturday, March 4th, make your plans now! You won't be disappointed.

Katz 22 at Hollywood in York

On a Saturday I tried to go see Matt Jameson at the Doyle Hotel. I highly suggest if you want to go see a musician at the Doyle, make reservations, and get there early! There was unfortunately no room downstairs where Matt was playing so we were stuck upstairs for a while until a table opened up. It was a bummer, but he was loving it! The place was packed and everyone was loving the music, and that's what's most important! Matt's back at the Doyle, Thurs, Feb. 5th. Let's hope it's another packed night at the Doyle! It's awesome to see Duncannon as a new place to kick back and love live music! The food is delicious and they do their best to keep the drinks flowing, just be sure to make a reservation. You can check out the Doyle's full schedule in this issue. Huge congrats to Matt Jameson for being nominated as the Best Male Artist in the 2022 CPMAs. It is crazy to look back and see all that he has accomplished in 2022! I'm so proud of him, it's kinda ridiculous. And no, I was NOT the one who nominated him.. Thanks to whoever did though!

After Matt's show I zoomed to Flinchy's for the 2nd half of Derek Henry's show. Out of all the acoustic musicians it's always cool to see how Derek brings in his own chair and table, makes himself comfy, and then amazes the crowd! Derek always seems to have people just randomly come up and talk to him while he's playing. He can somehow manage to keep it together to finish the song, I would be so distracted, and probably very salty, but Derek just handles it with a big smile on his face! I also caught Derek at the Hook n' Flask this month and it was the same situation. It was packed, standing room only, and everyone was having a blast, and there's Derek, smiling and playing, like it's all just completely normal. Congrats to Derek Henry for being nominated as the Best Male Vocalist in the 2022 CPMAs, and also to his Band Observe the 93rd and their nomination as Best Rock Band, and DEAD! Being nominated for the Best Tribute Band in the 2022 CPMAs. So much exciting things happening!

Another night started early with Matt Jameson at Fratelli's. Fratelli's is Matt's hometown bar, where he had his first show, so it will always be a special place for him. It was awesome to see so many of his friends, fans and family packing the place and having a blast! Jimmy finally got a chance to hear Matt's rendition of "Ace of Spades" by Motorhead. If you request it, there isn't much Matt won't at least try to play! Don't forget to check out Matt's new website, www.mattjamesonacoustic.com. He has his full schedule

Phil Cannizzaro at Flinchy's

continueed on next page…

on there, and he also has it in here! So go check it out, his schedule is jam packed for February!

After Fratelli's, I headed back to Flinchy's for Phil Cannizzaro. We couldn't believe how jam packed Flinchy's was! You could barely fit in the door! Phil was trying to play, but had a guest on the mic and in his face helping him sing a long! I'm telling ya the place was crazy town! Josh and Ali were cool, calm and collected behind the bar, and everyone was having a great time! With so many watering holes closing up shop and not having music, we are very grateful for the ones that do. And we support them as much as possible.

Hot & Dangerous at Lovedrafts

The next night started out super early at Grandpa's Love Shack in Shermans Dale, where Matt Jameson was playing from 5-7pm. Grandpa's Love Shack is no longer BYOB now that Woodburn Pub & Brewery is right next door serving up beer and spirits! It's a pretty cool set-up they have and all the food looked absolutely amazing and everything I ate was simply delicious! They have a cool stage where Matt played his heart out and quickly gained some new fans! The place was packed and everyone was singing and dancing along. Matt will be back at Grandpa's Love Shack, Friday, Feb. 24th.

After the Love Shack we zoomed to Hook N' Flask for a little bit of Derek, and I picked up Angie and zoomed again to Lovedrafts in Mechanicsburg for Hot and Dangerous and Dead Centre. Hot and Dangerous are exactly that! Erica's voice is amazing! Appropriately enough, Hot and Dangerous is also nominated for Best Cover Band, and Erica herself for Best Female Vocalist for

continueed on next page...

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Colt Wilbur at Flinchys

the 2022 CPMAs. I seem to almost always miss their set because of them being openers, but this night I made sure I got there in time to hear them. Since they were opening for Dead Centre, they didn't mess around they were pulling out all of their heavy hitters and playing them with ease! It was a great set to get the show started!

Dead Centre has been around for a little while now, but with such limited places to play, when they get the opportunity, their fans are ready and waiting to hear it! Lovedrafts had a great crowd that was ready to mosh and bang their heads, and they were definitely given every opportunity to do so! Mark's vocal range is insane, and with two killer guitar players, they could really nail every song! I couldn't stick around for the full show, but I'm glad I was able to see what I could!

On a Wednesday after another early show with Matt at Spring Gate Arcona, we ended the night at Flinchy's for Colt Wilbur. I haven't heard Colt solo for a while, so it was good to see him again. Once again, it was another packed night at Flinchy's! The Colt Wilbur Band has been busy getting ready to release a new album called Pretty Big Deal. They recently released a music video to go along with their title track, "Pretty Big Deal". Check it out!

continueed on next page...

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February 14th

UPCOMING SHOWS!

2/2 - Matt Jameson
2/3 - Rob Mordan
2/4 - Danielle Lea
2/9 - Evan Dillon
2/11 - Colin Alvarez Band
2/15 - Open Mic w/ Jonathan Frazier
2/17 - Brandon Barnhart
2/23 - Kandace Farhat
2/24 - Love Rocket Acoustic Duo
2/25 - Burden of Proof
3/2 - Zach King
3/3 - Appalachian Brewing Company night w/ Shine Delphi
3/4 - Kenny Jenkins & The Good Little Americans Band

Valentines Day Dinner w/ Dr Nyce

2/18/23

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The following weekend, I had to fly out to Lawrenceburg, IN for BRP Entertainment. When I arrived on Friday I was very excited to see Wade & Murphy were playing at the Hoosier Ice House literally 300 feet from my room! I heard Wade & Murphy on my last trip to Lawrenceburg when they played at the Fall Festival, and I've been following them since. It was awesome hearing them again and a great way to start off my weekend! I found out they will also be playing there February 10th, when I fly out again, so that's awesome for me!

Saturday it was time to get to work when George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic showed up on site. With having 35 members in their band, I was a little nervous about this undertaking, but everything went so smoothly! Must be our wonderful office staff at BRP Entertainment, making sure all of the fine details are worked out ahead of time, so the event goes as smooth as butter! The show itself was amazing. I saw them in 2019 at XL Live, and it was crazy to see how much better George was health wise. He was jumping up and down, dancing, and smiling the whole time! At 83 years young, it was a beautiful thing to see! The next day it was time to fly home. Believe it or not it was snowing in Cincinnati and all flights got grounded.. Just a little proof that you can't control everything, that's for sure!

Steel at Racehorse Tavern

After my crazy weekend of traveling, I was extremely happy to have a nice weekend at home. Friday night we headed back down to the York Casino for Emily's Toybox. The York Casino isn't very big, but I couldn't believe the amount of people there! We were all squished into the band area, and all of the slot machines were super busy too! At the end of the night, ETB was actually told by security that it was their biggest night ever at the casino! Emily's Toybox definitely didn't disappoint they put on one heck of a show with a fine mix of rock, country, and a bunch of shenanigans! I'm glad I was finally there to catch their special 50s medley, where Millhouse gets on the saxophone, Mike takes over on bass, and Reece jumps on lead vocals! They get everyone doing the Twist, and all of the other fun and crazy dances of that era! It's quite shocking at first, but people quickly embrace it, and join in the fun! It was awesome to see so many people out supporting live music!

Saturday night started with dinner at Flinchy's for the "jukebox" himself, Dave Gates. He came up with a stack of little sticky notes for people to easily make requests, and they definitely were! Dave can quickly switch from genre to genre with ease, and keeps the night flowing from one request to the next! I personally requested a Dave Gates original. I love hearing an artist playing their own music! Nothing quite compares. Dave had Flinchy's packed and it was standing room only for a while! So awesome to see!

Dead Centre at Lovedrafts

Last but not least, we went out to Hollywood Casino in Grantville for Funktion. I thought they'd be a little more funky, but at least while I was there they were playing some dance party favorites and they had the dance floor hopping. With I think at least 8 people on stage, including a full line of brass, and keys, they could definitely put out one heck of a sound! It was awesome to see and hear! It was also great to see people of all ages packing the dance floor!

That's all of my excitement for this month. February will feel weird without the annual MMC, but my good friends are doing a music conference in Philly called the PLAY Music Conference, if you get the hankering for a fun and educational music conference this month, I'd definitely check it out. There is still plenty to see and do this month, this magazine is full of schedules with fun and exciting things to choose from! Flip through the pages and check it out for yourself!

This month is super crazy for me. I'm really hoping to catch some local fun during the week, because my weekends are filled with lots of travel! I hope to see you Out and About when I am in town, and if you see me, by all means, say Hello! If you have any suggestions for me, feel free to email RachelRocks@pamusician.net. Don't forget you can check out the whole magazine online at www.pamusician.net. Get out there and SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!!!

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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! Thankfully Central PA has a really good local music scene as the winter months are quieter for National concerts. Mechanicsburg's own, Steel, rocked the Racehorse Tavern in Thomasville on January 6th. It was great to finally see their new singer, Kyle Stuhler, who really was incredible. A fantastic voice and very humble but confident stage presence focusing on the lyrics. Steel are as impressive as ever and are undeniably the best metal band in the area. Steel plays the Hanover Moose Lodge on March 4th.

Timmy's Creep Show played an incredible set at JB Lovedrafts in downtown Harrisburg on January 14th. The night also included bands Archaia and Beer & Pretzles. JB Lovedrafts was packed for all three bands and provides the perfect ambience for diverse shows. York's own, Hexbelt, played a really great show the same night at HMAC's Stage On Herr. Hexbelt have been around for decades and are wonderful creating a hybrid of rock, reggae, blues, funk and ska music. Hexbelt play Millersville's Phantom Power on February 11th. Lovedrafts in Mechanicsburg also had a great show on January 12th with a solo show from Todd Morse. Morse has played in many bands including H20 and Juliette Lewis & The Licks - and currently is the bass player in The Offspring. Titled 'The Screaming Babies Tour' consisting of 5 intimate shows, Morse brought a full band for the first solo show of his career.

NATIONAL NEWS: Alice Cooper is bringing his "Too Close For Comfort" tour to the Hershey Theatre on April 30th. According to Hershey Entertainment the show will include "the dark and horror-themed theatrics that Cooper is best known for."

Global icon Madonna will tour North America and Europe on a 35-city tour for her first arena shows since 2016. The legend announced "The Celebration Tour" will visit Pittsburgh's PPG Paints Arena August 7th, Washington DC's Capital One Arena September 2nd and NYC Madison Square Garden August 23rd & 24th. The tour begins July 15t and ends December 1st. Madonna did a run of multi-night theater plays in 2019 and 2020 pre-pandemic including 4 night's at Philadelphia's Met.

Jeff Beck, a guitar virtuoso who influenced generations of shredders along the way and became known as the guitar player's guitar player, died at the age of 78. Beck died January 10th after "suddenly contracting bacterial meningitis." Beck first came to prominence as a member of the Yardbirds and then went out on his own in a solo career. "Jeff Beck is the best guitar player on the planet," Joe Perry, the lead guitarist of Aerosmith, told The New York Times in 2010. "He is head, hands and feet above all the rest of us, with the kind of talent that appears only once every generation or two." Beck won eight Grammy Awards and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice. Beck is survived by his wife, Sandra.

Eric, Todd Morse (H20), Tina, & Kemble Walters (Chevelle)

Elton John's "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour is on track to become the highest-grossing tour of all time. The tour began more than four years ago in September 2018 and has played 278 shows to date. Elton John is currently in Australia and will conclude his tour in Europe with 50 more shows. Ed Sheeran currently holds the record for his "Divide" tour grossing $776 million from 257 shows, selling more than 8.8 million tickets. Elton John's final concert is scheduled for July 8th in Stockholm, Sweden.

David Crosby, a harmony singer with the Byrds and then became a troubadour in Crosby, Stills, Nash & (sometimes) Young, died on January 18th at the age of 81. Crosby had underwent a liver transplant in 1994, paid for by Phil Collins, after decades of drug use and survived diabetes, hepatitis C and heart surgery in his 70s. A statement from his family said he died "after a long illness," however friends say he remained active and had been working on plans for a tour and a new album. During Donald Trump's election as U.S. president, Crosby suggested that he was open to Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young protest tour, but his old bandmates declined to respond. In 2000, Melissa Etheridge revealed that Crosby was the father of the two children she shared with then-partner Julie Cypher. Cypher carried the children Crosby fathered by artificial insemination.

Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band are soon to hit the road this spring as they unveil west coast dates. "It's a new year and here are some new tour dates," Ringo said in a statement. "I love playing with the All Starrs and can't wait to be back out on the road again with this band. I send Peace and Love to you all and we hope to see you out there." The 20 tour dates include shows in California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Colorado and Utah.

In a year-end note posted to the band's Instagram, Foo Fighters announced they'll continue together after the death of drummer Taylor Hawkins. The band's remaining five members played two tribute concerts to Hawkins at London's Wembley Stadium and the Kia Forum in Inglewood, CA. The band wrote 2022 was "the most difficult and tragic year our band has ever known." And continued, "Foo Fighters were formed 27 years ago to represent the healing power of music and a continuation of life. We know that we're going to be a different band going forward. We know that when we see you again — and we will soon — Taylor will be there in spirit with all of us every night."

Many large summer music festivals have begun to announce huge lineups including: Coachella, Bonnaroo, Governors Ball, Boston Calling, Bottle Rock and Sonic Temple in Columbus, Ohio. After a three-year hiatus Sonic Temple takes place May 23rd-28th and the lineup boasts Foo Fighters, KISS, Avenged Sevenfold, Godsmack, Rob Zombie, Queens of the Stone Age, Deftones, and many more. The festival takes place at Historic Crew Stadium.

A few other artists lost recently include: Drummer Fred White, who backed up his brothers Maurice and Verdine White in the Grammy-winning ensemble Earth, Wind & Fire, died at 67. Gangsta Boo, a Southern rapper who was a former member of the hip-hop group Three 6 Mafia, died at 43. Anita Pointer, one of four sibling singers who earned pop success and critical acclaim as The Pointer Sisters, died at 74. Jeremiah Green, the founding drummer for the rock band Modest Mouse, died just days after the band announced he had been diagnosed with cancer. He was 45.

UPCOMING CONCERTS: Hexbelt - Millersville Phantom Power Feb 11. Viagra Boys - Washington DC 9:30 Club Feb 13. Jeffrey Gaines - Pottstown Rivet Feb 17. Angel Du$t - Harrisburg HMAC Feb 22. Angel Du$t - Baltimore Ottobar Feb 24. Metron reunion - Harrisburg XL Live Feb 24. Anthrophobia - Pottstown Rivet Feb 25.

Hopefully we'll see you at a show soon.Like us on facebook.

FUEL FOR THE FIRE FOR THOSE WHO ASPIRE

This month we sat down with Keith Randall to talk about his new full length album "Aspire" dropping February 1st. Following on the success of his single ***"I Feel It Too"*** , which is nominated for CPMA's "Best Instrumental Record". ***"Aspire"*** is sure to awaken your musical senses. Keith, accompanied by his wife Sonya, have a way of arranging notes and musical styles like no other. With a vast array of instruments each song is unique in its own way. For a full review of the album check out what The Professor has to say on page 20.

Q: Keith, Tell me a little bit about your musical background, when did you start playing, who/what were your musical influences?

I started playing the drums when I was a child. My Father was a musician and my Mother loved to sing around the house. He was a classic rock guy and my Mother loved the Beatles and Elvis. My step-father loved country music and as a teenager I got into my Uncle's hard rock vinyl, so I've been listening to a wide spectrum my whole life. As a child I was fascinated with the drum kit, so I started taking drum lessons at a pretty young age. By the time I was in 5th grade I was behind a drum kit backing up my music teacher during assembly. I was a teenager when I discovered Van Halen and there was an immediate switch to guitar that followed. Eddie was my guy. He was my first musical hero and I was saddened when he passed away in 2020. On my 15th Birthday, my step-father bought me a used strat-styled Ibanez guitar and a small, solid-state Marshall amp. I spent the majority of the coming years working on two-hand tap and whammy bar trick's trying to be like Van Halen. Since those earliest days I've spent time listening to the who's-who of big names in guitar across all genres of music

Q: Keith, What can you tell us about your new record Aspire?

When I released my first EP, ***"I Feel it Too,"*** back In February of 2022, I wasn't sure what was going to come of it. Having composed, produced, and performed the whole thing with only my wife Sonya accompanying me, I was certainly feeling a little insecure about it. Also, it was instrumental and I know that popular music typically has vocals but it was a passion project and I was determined to see it through. Needless to say I was pleasantly surprised with all of the positive press it received. The record got some streaming play in Europe and a couple of American radio stations played it. Album reviewers, like those in Pennsylvania Musician Magazine and Blue Rhymez Magazine gave it great reviews and the whole process just energized and inspired me. I was going to put a live band together to showcase it but I was just so inspired that I started writing its' follow up instead. The first song I composed was the title track to this new record, ***"Aspire"***. The rest of the music came to me rather quickly. Like my first EP, all of the instruments were performed live by either Sonya or myself. There are no "canned" instruments except for the drums which I programmed.

Q: How would you describe your music?

Isn't that always the most loaded question? So, I look at it like this. I am an artist and music is my medium. My influences run throughout every style, genre, and era there is because I simply love music. All of it. These instrumental records of mine are influenced by Rock, Pop, Classical, Jazz, Latin, Greek, RnB, EDM… you name it and it's an influence. I'm content enough calling it contemporary instrumental.

Q: You mentioned the fact that these are instrumental records. Why instrumental and do you have any plans to do a vocal record?

I have a decent singing voice. Sonya has a really cool vocal tone that I would love to get on record. However, I personally love the process of composing music. What's more is that I feel like the listener doesn't need for me to tell them what my music is supposed to make them feel. If they open up to it this music will take them somewhere uniquely their own without my words directing the course. I may do a vocal record some day but it's not currently in my plans. Sonya would like to do some devotional music down the road and I look forward to recording her voice, maybe producing her record, when she's ready.

Q: Keith, The only other person to appear on both of your records is Sonya. Can you tell us a little about how that dynamic works?

I honestly had no idea that Sonya had any musical talent until well after we were married. She had mentioned in passing that she played flute in school and then one night we were sitting around a camp fire at her folks house and she started playing a violin. I couldn't believe it! We started a little acoustic duo after that and then, when I started writing my first record, I thought how great it would be to include her. It's all grown from there. Once I heard how good she was on the saxophone I started writing music that featured her. Now I'm always trying to write lines that challenge her and keep her growing as a musician while exploring the sonic textures that her instruments add to my compositions.

A: [Sonya]: It's not always easy spending hours in the studio with your husband as the producer.

A:[Keith]: Haha, yeah, I run a tight ship

Q: And so how many instruments do you play on this record?

Besides the Nylon stringed guitar, which is my main instrument, I also play the bass, bouzouki, mandolin, percussion, and keyboards. In an attempt to keep the record as organic sounding as possible I limited the keyboard usage to piano and organ sounds. Everybody always asks me about the drums because when I was a kid I use to play a drum kit. These days I can only keep a basic beat on a trap kit so I chose to program the drums on both records with the prospect of adding a live drummer some day. For now I like keeping it just between Sonya and I.

Q: Wow, You play a lot of instruments tell me about the bouzouki and the song 'Laiko'?

I did not have what some would consider a typical American childhood. My Mothers family are Greek and I spent my childhood being raised with that tradition. One of the many unique and wonderful things I was exposed to in my family was Greek music. My Yiayia and Popou (Greek for Grandmother and Grandfather) used to regularly listen to Greek music and when writing for this album I wanted to do something as a tribute to my heritage. So, I ordered a handmade bouzouki from Athens, Greece, and learned to play it. The bouzouki is a type of lute. It has 4 sets of strings in courses of two, like a mandolin or 12-string guitar. It is tuned between strings the same intervallic distance as the highest four strings of a guitar, so the fretboard was easy enough to figure out. The only adjustment I really had to make was working around the bouzouki's large, bulbous body. Laiko music is a style of Greek music which combines traditional Greek instrumentation with modern pop production. I named my composition "Laiko" after that genre and borrowed from it's concept. The main theme is a riff I composed using what's known as the Phrygian scale in music theory. That scale is not unheard of in American music but neither is it all that common. For the beat, I kept it as a straight 4 on the floor club beat because I wanted to have something danceable on the record and because modern Laiko music often has a club-beat behind it. Where things got really interesting for me was in the song's bridge. I wanted to add some traditional Greek music in the composition so I did a little studying and came up with the Hijaz scale, referred to as Phrygian Dominant in Western Music theory, to give the song it's Mediterranean vibe. This was my first time studying Greek music and I'm hoping my journey as a composer finds me down that road again some day.

Q: And Sonya, you perform on alto saxophone, violin, and the flute on this record? What is your favorite instrument to play and why?

[Sonya]: My favorite is the Saxophone. I've always loved the sound of them and as a child wanted to play sax but was assigned flute in school band. In college I picked up a used saxophone and taught myself to play. Years later, I purchased a beautiful Cannonball alto saxophone and fell in love.

Q: How long have you been playing each instrument?

[Sonya]: I've been playing the Flute on and off since the fourth grade. I started playing the Saxophone since college and I've been playing the Violin for about four years.

Q: Do either of you have a favorite track on the record?

[Keith]: The title track, ***"Aspire,"*** is my favorite track on this one, followed by ***"Catching Feelings, Catching Fire."***

[Sonya]: ***"The Moonlight and You"*** is definitely my favorite because it a sexy piece to play on the saxophone. ***"Silk"*** is my second favorite because I surprised myself with the way the flute solos turned out.

Q: Keith, the liner notes state that you "composed, produced, and performed" all of the tracks and also states that all of the music was recorded, mixed, and mastered at your School House Sound studio. Can you tell us a little about the process that goes into making a record?

Typically I start off recording a demo of a riff I wrote or a theme I want to explore. Once I arrange the song structure I'll start programming the basic percussion and then work on the bass line. I can't stress enough how important a solid bass groove is. It's usually at this point I've got an idea of what the song's foundation sounds like and I'll start hearing melody lines, unless of course the melody is the theme I was exploring in the first place. Anyway, I'll track the melody lines on a guitar or a DAW emulating whatever lead instrument I want to perform the melody. Then I start to compose the accompaniment, which is one of my favorite things to do. Then I'll take the rough mix on a drive and see how the music makes me feel when I'm out of the studio. Phase two involves re-recording scratch tracks and introducing Sonya to her parts. I transpose them so that she can read the music for whatever instrument she is using and then, using her real instruments, she re-records the virtual instruments that I recorded with the DAW. Phase three is the production phase. There is a lot that goes into this process, the details of which I won't bore you with. Mixing and mastering require their own skillset and also require you to detach yourself from being the performer. The mix, at least for me, has to come first. Production can be rewarding but it can also be daunting and I don't mind telling you that I spend countless hours listening and tweaking during this process.

Q: Do you have any plans to perform these songs live?

I absolutely plan on performing this music live some day. I am not sure when, but it's coming. I'd like to do a live record too. Finding the right musicians with both the technical ability and the desire to play this sort of music will be difficult but I know they're out there. I am in no rush. I've got what feels like an endless supply of new original music to record as well and I am already looking forward to starting the next record.

Q: Where can we hear Aspire?

We've got a standard publishing deal with Tunecore Publishing that puts us in over 150 online locations in just as many countries. So, this and all of my records are available on all of the most popular streaming and download services including iTunes and Apple Music, Spotify, Pandora, iHeart Radio, Amazon. If it's a popular service you can find us there. For more information visit ***http://www.keithrandallmusic.com***

Q: Is there anyone you would like to thank who has helped you along the way?

Absolutely! As I talk about the past I'd obviously like to thank my Family. The motley collection of people that I call Family have been the most loving, encouraging, and fun-loving people anyone could ask to share their lives with. It's a humbling thing for me to say that there are fans of my work but I am so very grateful for the people that get what I am doing. I am all too aware that instrumental music is a niche market, so their kind words are fuel for my artistic fire. I'm grateful for everyone who I've ever been able to call friend. I'm also grateful for all of the musicians I've called band-mate. We all learned how to make music together and whatever I am as a musician is due in part to the company I've kept. Entities that elevate indie artists are so invaluable to artist growth… this magazine, the CPMA's and CPMHoF, radio stations who play indie artists like Jim Price at Q94 and Mike Lundy at WXPI, the Podcasters, Online Reviewers, Jeff over at PA Pipeline Music TV… I've been fortunate enough to have been supported by all of these entities. THANK YOU!

And of course, there's my Wife. If ever there was a lucky man, he would be me. Sonya has been everything a man could wish for in a Wife. My name is all over these records but Sonya's musical talents are what really make them something special. Thank you love

Cover Photo By: Dana Jones

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

And just like that, welcome to February. I'm starting writing my article a little ahead of time due to a stupid busy schedule lately (life gets in the way sometimes LOL), but by the time you read this it's February. I expect it'll loosen up a bit after the next week or so and I'll get to see more shows as a result, but I want to use my space here before I get to the music to say this: Congratulations to my son David for getting his dream job at the age of 19. I am so proud of you dude for not only chasing your dreams, but catching them! So, due to that and a few other things, I only got out for a few shows this month, but yet again our local music scene came through with some bangers! It may make for a slightly shorter article this month, but gives more room for pictures LOL.

My first trip out was with my son to get back to Shermans Creek Inn to see Carlisle based TUG – The Unusual Guests.

This talented five piece band covered a huge variety of tunes from rock to county, spanning five decades of music. Covering songs like Summer Breeze, I Want You To Want Me, Are You Gonna Go My Way and a ton of others, these folks put on a great show. If you happen to stop by the Creek sometime, check out their cheese-steak...it might actually, somehow, maybe be better than even their wings, and I LOVE their wings.

Next up we headed up to Iron Vines Winery in Sunbury for some of their delicious wines and to see my friends in The Ann Kerstetter Band dishing out their wide variety of music. Ann's voice is one of a kind, bringing such heart and soul to songs like Honky Tonk Blues, Take A Little Piece Of My Heart, Bobby Magee, and a ton of other great classics.

My third trip out for the month was to Lovedraft's Brewing in Mechanicsburg for what I knew was going to be an ear-bleed-inducing show (in a good way LOL). Put on by 717 Entertainment Inc and hosted by iRock Radio, this was guaranteed to be a great show. Starting out the evening was Central PA based Elsewhere, a Punk-based Metal-Core band that starts out loud and fast and just seems to find a way to expand on that with melodies and rhythms that just rock the room. The guys did an awesome job warming up the large crowd for what was to be a

memorable night. Taking the stage next was a new band to me, Akron OH based hard rock/metal band Audience Of Rain. I had no idea what to expect as they came out on stage, but I have to say...these guys blew me away and gained a number of new fans this evening. Their music was outstanding, their stage presence and crowd interaction (always a big thing to me) was seemingly beyond their years quite frankly. I was very impressed with these guys for my first time seeing them and really recommend catching them if you get the chance. The next two bands I've covered together a few times now and I think I can honestly say they go together like peanut-butter and jelly...and I do love me some peanut-butter and jelly, especially on potato bread. Anyhow, I digress...the third band to storm the stage was Ignite The Fire. Jack and the boys live up to that name and truly bring the

fire. The energy they have on stage is amazing, constantly moving and interacting with the crowd while belting out tunes that fans of most any genre can rock out to and love. As much and as fast as they move around the stage, they make for an interesting challenge from a photography standpoint...but I do love a challenge. Rounding out the evening was my incredible friends Eternal Frequency. This was a very special show for the group as they'd brought a HUGE crowd to Lovedraft's, and it was also drummer Dane's last show (at least for a while) as he begins preparing to be a new father. Congrats again Dane! Playing songs like Head Like a Hole, Parasite, Breath In Breath Out (still my fav of theirs!), as well as two of their newest releases War and A.I., these guys left it all on the stage to cap off an awesome and somewhat emotional evening. Congratulations are also in order (I just found out tonight) for Eternal Frequency as they were selected to play this years Blue Ridge Rock Festival, HUGE NEWS for them!

Final night out for the month was back down to Lovedraft's for a great night of music, food and a few drinks. Starting

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out the evening was a band I've seen a few times now, and each time just gets better. Sugar Hysteria hit the stage with their new drummer Josh who if I didn't know better, had been playing with them for a while instead of his first show with them. With a mix of covers done in their own way, as well as originals, they killed their set and really got the crowd set up for a rocking evening playing songs like Are You Gonna Be My Squirrel, It's Better If You Don't & Prisoner; they set the bar for the evening's energy. Next up was a new band for me, Benny Okay. Bringing a smooth classic rock/blues sort of feel with a modern spin to their tunes, these guys brought great guitar solos and solid rhythms that combined for a great sound that I really enjoyed. Coming out on the stage third was a band I've heard quite a bit about but finally got to see for my first time: Coal State. This four piece hard rock band mixed with a dash of punk and maybe even a little celtic to their sound resulting in a set that really pumped up the crowd that was getting huge by this point of the evening. Fourth up for the evening was my buddy Jon Garcia & The Hopeless Romantics. Bringing out his solid Pop/Rock style with songs like Kiss Kiss, Dreaming, and Good Talking; they brought out solid guitar work and percussion work for a great performance. They'll be playing next over at HMAC on March 18th with a bunch of other great bands that I highly recommend checking out! Headlining the evening was Baltimore based Jimmies Chicken Shack. Bringing they experience of over 30 years of rocking crowds from the stage, the guys took the stage by storm. Playing some of their

classics mixed with some of their newer songs, the guys put on a hell of a show. I think this is the third time I've gotten to see them over the last year (maybe I'm trying to make up for having not seen them the previous 29 years LOL), and each time has been a great experience.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out & around and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

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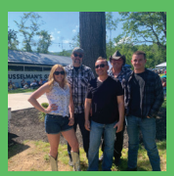

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THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

By the time you read this, the esteemed rodent in Punxsutawney will have indicated – via his ability or inability to see his shadow – whether we see six more weeks of winter or an early spring. Regardless of what Phil the groundhog says, I think I can easily forecast at least another six weeks of live music on area stages, and that I'll be out and about to see lots of it!

Since last month's writ, I got to enjoy some more 2022 holiday season musical cheer, including the annual holiday edition of Wednesday Jam Night at Altoona's Unter Uns Musical & Entertainment Society (presented by the Live Music Preservation Society), which happened on the Wednesday night between Christmas and New Year's Day. At least 26 musicians took the stage in various configurations through the course of the night to deliver continuous live music and rock'n'roll favorites to a joyful holiday audience. Lots of Wednesday Jam Night regulars partook in the jams – such as Craig Albright, Don Osborn, Bill Hunter, Charlie Hudson, Ron Clayton, jam emcee and coordinator Bill Hocherl, Joe DeGenarro, Chuck Knepper and others. Ron Bankert and Jim Bowser played saxophones, Adam D worked the keys, and a percussion-playing "Professor" got to slap on djembe, bongos and congas on a few songs! The night also saw sets from The Stiffs (John McKelvey, Lane Williamson, Craig Albright, Dave Ebersole and Rick Guyer) and Hot Wax (Mike Zerbee, Chris Myers and Mike Crocetti); Hot Wax also welcomed guest singer Chet Harker on a few songs, and bassist Chris Myers' son Cullen sat in on drums during a version of "Wipe Out." Lisa Bock stepped in to sing lead on a few numbers, and the house "Boardwalk Singers" joined in to sing on their namesake song – The Drifters' "Under the Boardwalk" – toward night's end. Highlights were numerous and smiles were plentiful – kudos to the Unter Uns and the Live Music Preservation Society for putting this together, Beth Wiesinger for preparing the dinner, all of the musicians who took part, and the music fans who cheered them on. Jam Night at the Unter Uns happens every Wednesday night starting at 7 p.m.

One of the final bands I saw in 2022 was Cambria County's Wanderlost as they entertained at Excise Distillery near Prince Gallitzin State Park on New Year's Eve's eve (Dec. 30). This group brings something a little different to area stages, as – except for Mike Kokus' bass – there are no guitars in this band. Singer Dustin Rainey leads on keys, with Dan Hutton on saxes, flute and synthesizer, and Jason Olear on drums. Wanderlost performed their colorful blend of jazzy-leaning rock and pop, doing many catchy original tunes and select covers before an appreciative audience. Several of the originals were from Dustin's solo album "Foolish," such as "Dorothy," "Lost & Found," "Friends & Enemies," and the punchy "The Devil Just Drowns Them Out" with Mike's driving bass groove leading the way. Wanderlost also did newer originals such as "Dance Like There Was No Yesterday," "Gaslight," "Something Beautiful," "Eyes Open Wide," the sing-along "Woah," "Battle Scars" and "Outside The In Crowd." Their covers included versions of Billy Joel's "Movin' Out," Coldplay's "Something Just Like This," Fiona Apple's "Criminal" and their 'Weezer on piano' rendition of "Say It Ain't So." The blend of Dustin's various piano and keyboard flavors with Dan's sax, flute and synth fills and accents kept things interesting through the entire evening, and kept the crowd happy as well. Wanderlost offers a fresh sound well worth checking out – go see them when you get the opportunity to do so!

Once again, The Pennsoulvanians musically bridged my transition from old year 2022 into New Year 2023, delivering the music during another masquerade ball-themed New Year's Eve gala at McGarvey's. After a complementary dinner started the night, The Pennsoulvanians played two sets leading up to midnight; enhancing the audience's celebratory mood with their grooving brand of original music. The fronting pair of em-

continued on next page…

Dan Hutton of Wanderlost

The Pennsoulvanians

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cee Mike Thomas and acoustic guitarist Chet Denny blended rhymes and lyrics (joined several times by guest Danny Rivera); backed by lead guitarist Nate Nagle, sax player Lyndsay Reilly, keyboardist Brett Fanelli, bassist Aaron Kenawell and drummer Randy Sciarrillo. The Pennsoulvanians mixed flavors of soul, hip-hop, folk, rock, reggae, funk and more through original song favorites such as their title tune "Pennsoulvania," "Hustle Til the Morning," "Strip You of Your Innocence," "Crime to Be Curious," "Round Here," "Day Has Come," "Bounce Back," "Pilgrimage," "40 Acres" and others, and closed the door on 2022 with their crowd-rousing rendition of Prince's "Purple Rain." After crossing the threshold into 2023, The Pennsoulvanians ended strong with three more tunes – "Swagger," "Third Time" and a new original tune, "Last Call." This group's stellar musicianship, captivating grooves, and Mike and Chet's clever vocal choreography again kept the audience engaged, and provided an upbeat start to the New Year. The Pennsoulvanians issued a video for their live version of "Bounce Back" last month, and will entertain during the African American Heritage Festival Prom Night fundraiser at The Casino at Altoona's Lakemont Park on Feb. 11.

The first show I attended in 2023 (beyond New Year's Eve) also marked my first visit to the Philipsburg LaunchPad, a new showcase venue that spotlights live original music, theatre and other public events. During the first Saturday of each month this year, different bands and artists will be recording live albums on the LaunchPad stage. This night, Centre County acoustic trio The Extra Miles performed and was recorded live before a full room of jubilant music fans. Singer and multi-instrumentalist Andrea Miles, plus guitarists and singers Patty McKenna and Ruth Williamson, performed two sets of music; the first showcasing their original songs and the second letting the group cut loose on some fan favorite covers. The Extra Miles displayed thoughtful lyrics and great harmonies, and shared insights and inspirations about many of their original songs; their opener, "Found," was the first song Andrea ever wrote; "Why Hurry" promotes taking time to enjoy every moment, "Stream Of Lies" concerns domestic violence, and "Can't You Just Smile" encourages tolerance for those who are disadvantaged. During the second set, The Extra Miles made their cover song selection their own, presenting each tune in their own distinctive style with vocal harmonies, hand percussion, harmonica and more. Opening with Deep Blue Something's "Breakfast at Tiffany's," the group proceeded with songs from the Mamas & Papas, Chris Stapleton, Three Dog Night, Tom Petty, R.E.M., Guns N'Roses, the Beatles, Hootie & the Blowfish, a request for Simon & Garfunkel's "The Boxer" and many more. Several of the songs recorded this night can now be heard on The Extra Miles' Soundcloud page.

Andrea Miles of The Extra Miles

After seeing The Extra Miles' performance, I traveled a few more extra miles to Café 210 West in State College to catch the last two sets of the J.R. Mangan Band with Veronica as they entertained an audience of Penn State students just arriving back on campus before the start of Spring Semester. Namesake J.R. on vocals and acoustic guitar, singer Veronica Auger, bassist and singer Jason Ebersole, lead guitarist Mark Toci, and drummer and singer John Lynch threw their welcoming party with an energetic mixture of rock and pop favorites. This group clearly had fun on the stage, with all except Mark sharing singing duties. Veronica showed a vibrant and bright singing style, and she put heart and enthusiasm into everything she sang this night – from 4 Non Blondes' "What's Up" to Gnarls Barkley's "Crazy," to the Jefferson Airplane double-shot of "Somebody to Love" into "White Rabbit," to her boisterous display on The Runaways' "Bad Reputation" and more. She and J.R. dueted on Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide," and J.R. fronted the group on Tom Petty's "Mary Jane's Last Dance" and the night-ending rendition of Semisonic's "Closing Time." Jason sang lead on songs by the Killers, Blink-182 and Jimmy Eat World, and John sang from behind the drum kit on David Bowie's "Young Americans" and Queen's "Fat Bottomed Girls." Mark let his guitar do the singing throughout the night, as he fired off frequent precision lead solo work along the way. The J.R. Mangan Band kept the energy and enthusiasm high throughout the show, which kept folks happy and dancing in front of the stage. See the J.R. Mangan Band stir up the dance party most Saturdays at Café 210 West.

Clearfield County horror punk rockers Less Than Zero fittingly headlined a Friday the 13th triple-bill at McGarvey's last month. Work duties delayed my arrival until during the last song of Hardtack's opening set, but what I heard of these Clearfield-based hard rockers sounded good, and hopefully I'll have another opportunity to catch a full set from them soon. The BSXpress brought their punk-rooted rock to the stage next. Brian Walker on guitar and vocals, and Dean Kepner on drums hammered out many of their original tunes and a few covers. Among their originals were some songs off their "Commuter" CD such as "Gas Station Chicken Salad" and "Crash Down," and they introduced some newer tunes such as "Lobbyist." Among The BSXpress' covers was their spirited take on the Misfits' "Where Eagles Dare." The BSXpress have started working with a bass player since this night, and may be three members strong for their next scheduled McGarvey's appearance on Feb. 25. Less Than Zero then slammed the night home with their feisty horror punk rock set. Again the roster of singer Eddie Benevich, rhythm guitarist and singer Davey Blowers, lead guitarist and singer Garrett Kyler, bassist Mindy Devil and drummer Jarod Gearheart; Less Than Zero fired through many numbers from their "Rotten" debut CD such as the title tune, "Asylum" (with Garrett's timely maniacal laughter sealing the deal), "Blue Ball Bastard," "Show Me Your Shadow," "Heebie Jeebies," "Sold Our Soul" and more. They also introduced one new song, "Devil's Treat." Less Than Zero continues to forge their relentless, hard-driving punk-driven style and all-out live show, executing full-tilt from start to end. Watch for their eventual return to McGarvey's as well.

Mindy Devil of Less Than Zero

Glenn's Place in Claysburg is again running live bands regularly, and I checked out Avenue Of Kings' performance there last month. This group is back to five members strong after recently adding a new second guitarist, Joe Lybarger; who joins guitarist Chris Silva, lead singer Matt Stoyanoff, bassist Beau Cabassa and drummer Randy Wilson. Avenue Of Kings brought copious doses of classic 80s and 90s rock and metal to the stage; doing numbers from Ratt, Firehouse, Jackyl, Buckcherry, Twisted Sister, Poison, Scorpions, Ghost, Billy Idol, Judas Priest, AC/DC, Kix and more. Matt still delivers the vocal firepower with ample high range, and the rest of the band brings the instrumental firepower with pounding rhythms and guitar fireworks a-plenty. Avenue Of Kings kept the dance floor busy, especially when they arrived at their Motley Crue double-shot of "Wild Side" and "Same

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Old Situation." And they brought metalheads to the floor to bang their heads at night's end with Metallica's "Enter Sandman" and "Master Of Puppets," with Iron Maiden's "Two Minutes to Midnight" sandwiched in between.

Since re-opening their recently-renovated downtown Altoona location late last year, Levity Brewing Co. has started hosting live music. With members from Cambria and Somerset Counties, Jeff Perigo & Friends visited last month to celebrate the music of Bob Dylan and The Band. This was a fun show, as Jeff on acoustic guitar and vocals was joined by "Friends" Dave Distefano on acoustic guitar, drums and vocals, bassist and singer Mike D'Arc and drummer, acoustic guitarist and singer Brad Barron. The group alternated between Dylan and Band classics for most of the show, sharing lead singing duties and swapping instruments. Local guest Jim "Juga" McConnell joined in on harmonica for Dylan's "Rainy Day Women 12 & 35" and The Band's version of "Who Do You Love." The group also did such Dylan classics as "Subterranean Homesick Blues," "Don't Think Twice, It's Alright," "You Ain't Goin' Nowhere," "It Ain't Me Babe," "Mighty Quinn," "Just Like A Woman," "Serve Somebody" and "Tangled Up in Blue." They also broke out The Band classics like "Ophelia," "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," "King Harvest," "The Weight," "Up on Cripple Creek" and others. The musicianship was strong through it all, as all four of these players displayed ample skills on their instruments and meshed well together.

The Giants Of Science continue to be operational in 2023, and returned last month to bring their party to Altoona's 4D's Lounge. Still the reliable cast of singer and guitarist Mick, bassist and singer Johnny 5, keyboardist, keytarist and singer Scotty B, and drummer Steve; Giants Of Science kept the packed house happy and the dance floor full with their celebration of 1980s rock and pop hits. The music was nonstop as the Giants kept dancers busy with favorites from Soft Cell, Prince, Sublime, Rick Springfield, Bruce Springsteen, Chumbawamba, Violent Femmes, Killers, Dexy's Midnight Runners, Don Henley, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Bryan Adams, Journey and many more. The Giants Of Science continue to be everywhere in this part of the world, so be ready to party down when they visit your town!

Felix & the Hurricanes also continue to be busy in 2023; including their weekly Sunday night shindig at Altoona's Black & Gold Tavern. When I stopped by early last month to see them, bass player Jeff Clapper had the night off to celebrate the completion of his latest orbit around the sun, so Pat McGinnis filled in on bass and vocals alongside lead Hurricane Felix Kos on guitar and Bob Watters on drums. As always, the Hurricanes brought their Sunday best with their fun mix of classic rock, blues, soul, country hits plus a few surprises. The group sank heart and spirit into their takes on tunes from Jimi Hendrix, Cream, Stevie Ray Vaughan, ZZ Top, Allman Brothers, James Gang, Neil Young, Zac Brown Band and many more. Highlights included Shallow 9 drummer Todd Harshbarger sitting in on Delbert McClinton's "Standing on Shaky Ground," a surprise rendition of Led Zeppelin's "Moby Dick" with Bob getting in a drum solo workout, and the unpredictable medley of Marshall Tucker's "Can't You See" into a song about "Friday Fish" and then the theme song from "The Munsters" TV show! There's always comic relief at these Sunday Hurricanes shows as well, as legendary Baltimore Orioles first baseman Boog Powell's name became a catch phrase onstage throughout the night. Always a good time; watch for Felix & the Hurricanes everywhere, and wrap up your weekends with them Sundays at the Black & Gold Tavern.

Felix Kos of Felix & the Hurricanes

I also witnessed a fun acoustic jam last month at Molly's Pub in Altoona, where The Roof's frontman, Frank Musaraca, visited and invited a few friends to make the music. Early on, Frank on guitar and vocals, Devin Pierce on bass and a percussionist (whose name I didn't catch) did numbers from Tom Petty, The Band, Grateful Dead and a medley of Marshall Tucker Band's "Can't You See" into CSNY's "Ohio" and the Allman Brothers' "Midnight Rider." Guest Phil McCaulley then joined in to lend his rich voice on versions of Rusted Root's "Send Me On My Way," Grateful Dead's "Friend of the Devil" and the Animals' "House of the Rising Sun." After a brief break, Derek Mrdjenovich of Walkney performed a few of his own original numbers and joined Frank on an acoustic rendition of The Proclaimers "(I'm Gonna Be) 500 Miles." Frank, Devin and the percussionist finished out the jam with a house singalong version of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline," plus A-ha's "Take On Me," Billy Idol's "Dancing with Myself," Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer" and Tom Petty's "American Girl." The music was casual and relaxed, and coupled with bartender Michelle's birthday, made for a good time.

News and Notes…Pure Cane Sugar singer and guitarist Kate Twoey got to live her dream last month by getting to sing a duet with one of her idols; it happened while Kate attended the "Girls Just Wanna Weekend 4" concert vacation event in Riviera Maya, Mexico. This year's event was hosted by Grammy award winner Brandi Carlile. After submitting a video audition to an Instagram contest, Kate won the opportunity to sing with Brandi during the event's "Brandi-oke" feature. Kate joined Brandi onstage for a rendition of "A Beautiful Noise," Brandi's popular 2020 duet with Alicia Keys. Brandi praised Kate's singing talents afterward. Numerous cameras captured the magic, and Kate edited together the footage and uploaded a video of the performance on YouTube...Images Of Eden will open for W.A.S.P.'s 40 Years Live World Tour during April and May; the tour includes concert dates in Sweden, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria…Crazed Visions, the creative musical project of Matthew Cain, has expanded into a full band project and is now working on an album expected to be released on March 21…And sometimes the unexpected happens when musicians film videos for their songs – while the video for Matt Otis' latest single, "Stars" (off Matt Otis & the Sound's latest album "Here Not Here") was being filmed at Pittsburgh's Frick Park, a buck ran across the road directly behind Matt and his accomplices, singers Victoria Colonello and Terek Ritchie, while they were performing. The buck made the final cut of the video, which can be seen on YouTube (the deer makes its cameo appearance at around the 4:10 mark).

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!

Guest Phil McCaulley singing with Frank Musaraca of The Roof

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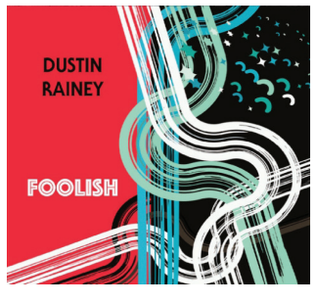
PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

KEITH RANDALL – *ASPIRE* (no label) Almost a year after the release of his debut instrumental solo EP I Feel It Too, Williamsport native Keith Randall continues his exploration of musical frontiers on his first full-length album, Aspire. Picking up where its predecessor left off, Aspire finds Keith continuing to expand his creative musical horizons with a colorful set of instrumental tunes that merge various musical flavors. Keith blends various elements of international music, along with touches of jazz, folk, pop, rock, blues, soul and more. Keith and his wife, Sonya, also brings a few more instruments to the table to further develop the various flavors and themes of their music. Opening the album, the title track "Aspire" sets an uplifting melody and inspirational tone along a prominent beat, with Sonya peppering the number with flourishes of alto saxophone, violin and flute. Keith injects an upbeat and dance-friendly vibe into "Catching Feelings, Catching Fire," establishing a salsa-geared rhythm. He explores his Greek musical roots on "Laïkó," utilizing a bouzouki ordered in from Athens to generate the number's Mediterranean flavor. Keith explores slow jazz horizons with "The Moonlight and You," highlighted by Sonya's smooth jazz sax work. A Mexican adventure inspires the tropical-edged "Riviera Nights," while the Far East is imagined on "Silk," spotlighting Sonya's flute skills along a unique 7/8 time signature. "A Passion Unleashed" rides a driving and powerful rhythm, and Keith's bouzouki returns to craft another Greek folk angle on the reminiscent album closer "The Last Sunset of Summer." Keith's strong composing skills, melodic sensibilities and wide variety of musical flavors makes Aspire interesting from start to end. The performances sound strong and inspired, and Keith and Sonya both display ample mastery on their various instrumentation. Composed, produced, mixed and mastered by Keith and recorded at School House Sound in Annville, this set sounds full, balanced and clear, with the instruments coming through distinctly in the mix. Keith Randall's sense of musical exploration and adventure yields a compelling listen on Aspire, as he aspires to stretch his musical frontiers. (The album can be obtained through Keith's website, www.keithrandallmusic.com, as well as through various online streaming and digital platforms.)

DUSTIN RAINEY – *FOOLISH* (no label) By day a musical instructor for the Ferndale Area School District, Dustin Rainey is a singer, songwriter and keyboardist who now fronts the Cambria County-based jazz, pop and rock band Wanderlost. Dustin showcases his songwriting, singing and arranging talents over the nine songs of his solo album, Foolish. Citing influences from Ben Folds Five to Billy Joel and Elton John, Dustin shows a clear knack for songcraft; creating distinct and catchy melodies, clever lyrics, and creative piano and keyboard arrangements that make each song pop and sparkle. From its gentle piano start, the album's opening track "Fortune Teller" builds into an ode about the reassurances that some people seek when visiting such a soothsayer. A carryover song from Dustin's previous band project Spoonchatter, the upbeat "Einstein" suggests that genius isn't needed to have common sense. Led by a prominent low-end groove, the punchy "The Devil Just Drowns Them Out" spins a tale of temptation, while "Friends & Enemies" ponders honesty. Dustin presents hopeful numbers such as "Lost & Found," about maneuvering through life's journey, and the optimistic homeward-bound "Dorothy." He also shares uplifting romantic ballads like "You Are the Best Thing" and the album-closer "Breathe," and sings of determination during a relationship bump in the road on "Until You Let Me Go." Dustin's voice rings strong and clear with ample range, and his shining piano work drives each melody. His arrangements show variety from simple piano to full, fleshed-out and rhythmic passages, vocal layering and more. Recorded and produced by Dustin in his home studio, Foolish sounds bright, balanced and clean from start to end. Foolish provides a pleasant and uplifting listen, and provides a nice display of Dustin Rainey's musical creativity and all-around talent. (The album can be accessed and obtained through www.wanderlostmusic.com and online music retailers and platforms.)



Wanderlost caricature by Jim Price

~ All photos on pages 17 thru 20 by Jim Price ~

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WANTED: Progressive, blackened, death metal band Gryla is seeking a guitarist. EP being released soon. Currently all female, but we're open to anyone. Contact Shannon 717-300-9269

WANTED: Experienced Accoustic Lead Guitarist With Vocals For Accoustic Duo With Talented Bass Player With Strong Vocals Rehearse Weekly/ Classic Modern Rock,Reading Area 610-607-3516.
WANTED: Dedicated Experienced Talented Bass Player With Strong Vocals Looking To Form Or Join 80's Rock Band. Have Practice Place. Is Anyone Out There?! Reading Area Call 610-607-3516

WANTED Any metal guitarists or bass players looking for an opportunity? Our project consists of 2 guys that have been jamming for 3 years and we have a solid core. I'm the drummer and he's the guitarist. We play a lot of fun covers, more than most. They include anything from Life of Agony, Opeth, Dream theater, Testament, Death (of course!), suicidal, megadeth, etc. We also have another side to us. Our originals have all been written on acoustic guitars and have a very In Flames/ Katatonia feel. Very melodic and moody. We are not opposed to taking these acoustic ideas and making them heavy with distorted guitars and mixing the 2 flavors. We really work hard at this and hope someone might appreciate what we have to offer. Practice in Dillsburg, Thanks in advance for any consideration. Contact us here, divinemizery@gmail.com

WANTED MUSICIANS: 17 year old drummer looking for musicians or band to rehearse with for future gigs. Influences: Slipknot, Motionless in White, Van Halen, FFDP, etc. 570-241-3539.

WANTED MUSICIAN: Near working 80's metal band seeks seasoned 2nd Lead Guitar. Must have pro equipment, wild personality, & practice Sunday afternoons in Mechanicsburg. Text 717-683-8625

MUSICIANS AVAILABLE:

AVAILABLE: Experienced bass player with good strong vocals looking for classic, modern rock, variety band. No drugs please. No 50's or 60's music. Have good gear. Dedicated..Reading, Berks County Area call 610-607-3516

AVAILABLE: Picker/singer/lyricist available for co-writes, live gigs. Baritone vocals, 6 & 12 string guitars and harmonicas. Lancaster city. 610-334-8630

AVAILABLE" Professional drummer 40+ years, Covers, originals. Hard rock, classic rock, dance, years of experience both live and studio. Erik @ 814-381-5312. Altoona Area

AVAILABLE:Bass player with good strong vocals looking for working band or acoustic duo or trio. 80"s rock, classic rock, modern rock or variety. Berks County. Call; 610-607-3516

AVAILABLE: Mature/Seasoned guitarist for a working/near working situation. Band, trio, duo's.. Classic rock/Blues/Oldies etc. CCR- Petty-Beatles-Aerosmith-Skynerd-Bad Co.- Eagles-SRV.. etc Professional equipment, reliable..back/vox. E-mail: johnandzach@gmail.com

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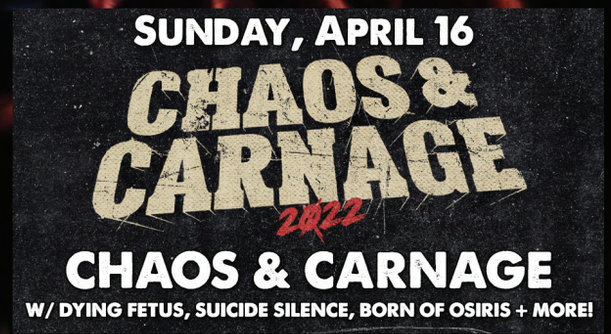

UPCOMING SHOWS AT REVERB:

FEB 11: VALENTINE BALL
MARCH 3: TAYLOR SWIFT NIGHT
MARCH 5: MIMOSA FEST
MARCH 18: CODY MANSON
MARCH 19: HR OF BAD BRAINS
APRIL 6: COMEDY W/ BEN BAILEY FROM CASH CAB
APRIL 9: OVERTIME
APRIL 29: 90S ROCK FEST
MAY 13: ADELITAS WAY + OTHERWISE
JUNE 11: BOYBAND BRUNCH